

We claim:

1. A method for transfer of employee stock options, the method comprising:
providing a plurality of option value prices;
determining a stock trading price corresponding to a particular one of the plurality of
5 option value prices;
receiving an employee stock option corresponding to the particular one of the
plurality of option value prices;
providing a value corresponding to the particular one of the plurality of option value
prices in exchange for receiving the employee stock option;
10 amending the employee stock option;
transferring the amended stock option to a third party; and
receiving a value corresponding to the amended stock option in exchange for
transferring the amended stock option.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein providing a plurality of option value
15 prices uses an option pricing formula.
3. A method according to claim 2, wherein the option pricing formula is selected
from the group consisting of Black-Scholes, binomial and trinomial methods.
4. A method according to claim 1, wherein providing a plurality of option value
prices provides the plurality of prices in an option-price grid.
- 20 5. A method according to claim 1, wherein determining a stock trading price
further comprises determining an average stock trading price over a predetermined period of
time.
6. A method according to claim 1, wherein providing a value further comprises:

providing a first value to an employee; and
providing a second value to the employee, wherein the first and second values are
provided at different times.

7. A method according to claim 6, further comprising:
 - 5 determining an investment value corresponding to the second value; and
 - providing the investment value to the employee with the second value.
8. A method according to claim 1, wherein amending the employee stock option
comprises:
 - amending the maturity;
 - 10 amending the number of shares per option;
 - amending the dilution protection; or
 - amending the dividend protection.
9. A method according to claim 1, further comprising registering an offering of
securities underlying the employee stock option.
- 15 10. A method according to claim 1, further comprising issuing the employee stock
option.
11. A method according to claim 1, further comprising hedging the amended
stock option.
12. A method according to claim 11, wherein hedging the amended stock option
20 includes short selling of securities and/or futures contracts.
13. A method according to claim 11, wherein hedging the amended stock option
includes buying and selling securities that underlie the amended stock option.

14. A method according to claim 11, wherein hedging the employee stock option includes buying and selling of securities that underlie the employee stock option to rebalance the hedge position.

15. A method according to claim 1, wherein an issuer of the employee stock
5 option receives the employee stock option and provides the value.

16. A method according to claim 1, wherein an issuer of the employee stock option amends the employee stock option, transfers the amended stock option and receives the value.

17. A method for transfer of employee stock options, the method comprising:
10 using an option pricing formula to provide a plurality of option value prices arranged in an option-price grid;

determining an average stock trading price over a predetermined period of time, the average stock trading price corresponding to a particular one of the plurality of option value prices;

15 receiving an employee stock option from an employee, the employee stock option corresponding to the particular one of the plurality of option value prices;

in exchange for receiving the employee stock option, providing a first value, a second value and an investment value to the employee, the first and second values corresponding to the particular one of the plurality of option value prices, the first value provided to the
20 employee at a first time, the second value and the investment value provided to the employee at a second time;

amending the employee stock option to modify:

terms of the maturity;

terms of the number of shares per option;

terms of the dilution protection; or

terms of the dividend protection;

transferring the amended stock option to a third party; and

5 receiving a value from the third party in exchange for transfer of the amended stock option.

18. A system for transfer of employee stock options, the system comprising:

means for providing a plurality of option value prices;

10 means for determining a stock trading price corresponding to a particular one of the plurality of option value prices;

means for receiving an employee stock option corresponding to the particular one of the plurality of option value prices;

means for providing a value corresponding to the particular one of the plurality of option value prices in exchange for receiving the employee stock option;

15 means for amending the employee stock option;

means for transferring the amended stock option to a third party; and

means for receiving a value corresponding to the amended stock option in exchange for transferring the amended stock option.

19. A system for transfer of employee stock options, the system comprising:

20 means for providing a plurality of option value prices arranged in an option-price grid using an option pricing formula;

means for determining an average stock trading price over a predetermined period of time, the average stock trading price corresponding to a particular one of the plurality of option value prices;

means for receiving an employee stock option from an employee, the employee stock
5 option corresponding to the particular one of the plurality of option value prices;

means for providing a first value, a second value and an investment value to the employee in exchange for receiving the employee stock option, the first and second values corresponding to the particular one of the plurality of option value prices, the first value provided to the employee at a first time, the second value and the investment value provided
10 to the employee at a second time;

means for amending the employee stock option to modify:

terms of the maturity;

terms of the number of shares per option;

terms of the dilution protection; or

15 terms of the dividend protection;

means for transferring the amended stock option to a third party; and

means for receiving a value from the third party in exchange for transfer of the amended stock option.

20. Computer executable software code transmitted as an information signal, the
20 code for transfer of employee stock options, the code comprising:

code to provide a plurality of option value prices;

code to determine a stock trading price corresponding to a particular one of the plurality of option value prices;

code to receive an employee stock option corresponding to the particular one of the plurality of option value prices;

code to provide a value corresponding to the particular one of the plurality of option value prices in exchange for receiving the employee stock option;

5 code to amend the employee stock option;

code to transfer the amended stock option to a third party; and

code to receive a value corresponding to the amended stock option in exchange for transferring the amended stock option.

21. A computer-readable medium having computer executable software code
10 stored thereon, the code for transfer of employee stock options, the code comprising:

code to provide a plurality of option value prices;

code to determine a stock trading price corresponding to a particular one of the plurality of option value prices;

code to receive an employee stock option corresponding to the particular one of the
15 plurality of option value prices;

code to provide a value corresponding to the particular one of the plurality of option value prices in exchange for receiving the employee stock option;

code to amend the employee stock option;

code to transfer the amended stock option to a third party; and

20 code to receive a value corresponding to the amended stock option in exchange for transferring the amended stock option.

22. A programmed computer for transfer of employee stock options, comprising:

a memory having at least one region for storing computer executable program code;
and

a processor for executing the program code stored in the memory, wherein the
program code comprises:

- 5 code to provide a plurality of option value prices;
 code to determine a stock trading price corresponding to a particular one of the
plurality of option value prices;
 code to receive an employee stock option corresponding to the particular one of the
plurality of option value prices;
- 10 code to provide a value corresponding to the particular one of the plurality of option
value prices in exchange for receiving the employee stock option;
 code to amend the employee stock option;
 code to transfer the amended stock option to a third party; and
 code to receive a value corresponding to the amended stock option in exchange for
- 15 transferring the amended stock option.

23. Computer executable software code transmitted as an information signal, the
code for transfer of employee stock options, the code comprising:

- code to provide a plurality of option value prices arranged in an option-price grid
using an option pricing formula;
- 20 code to determine an average stock trading price over a predetermined period of time,
the average stock trading price corresponding to a particular one of the plurality of option
value prices;

code to receive an employee stock option from an employee, the employee stock option corresponding to the particular one of the plurality of option value prices;

code to provide a first value, a second value and an investment value to the employee in exchange for receiving the employee stock option, the first and second values

5 corresponding to the particular one of the plurality of option value prices, the first value provided to the employee at a first time, the second value and the investment value provided to the employee at a second time;

code to amend the employee stock option to modify:

terms of the maturity;

10 terms of the number of shares per option;

terms of the dilution protection; or

terms of the dividend protection;

code to transfer the amended stock option to a third party; and

code to receive a value from the third party in exchange for transfer of the amended

15 stock option.

24. A computer-readable medium having computer executable software code stored thereon, the code for transfer of employee stock options, the code comprising:

code to provide a plurality of option value prices arranged in an option-price grid using an option pricing formula;

20 code to determine an average stock trading price over a predetermined period of time, the average stock trading price corresponding to a particular one of the plurality of option value prices;

code to receive an employee stock option from an employee, the employee stock option corresponding to the particular one of the plurality of option value prices;

code to provide a first value, a second value and an investment value to the employee in exchange for receiving the employee stock option, the first and second values

5 corresponding to the particular one of the plurality of option value prices, the first value provided to the employee at a first time, the second value and the investment value provided to the employee at a second time;

code to amend the employee stock option to modify:

terms of the maturity;

10 terms of the number of shares per option;

terms of the dilution protection; or

terms of the dividend protection;

code to transfer the amended stock option to a third party; and

code to receive a value from the third party in exchange for transfer of the amended
15 stock option.

25. A programmed computer for transfer of employee stock options, comprising:

a memory having at least one region for storing computer executable program code;

and

a processor for executing the program code stored in the memory, wherein the

20 program code comprises:

code to provide a plurality of option value prices arranged in an option-price grid using an option pricing formula;

code to determine an average stock trading price over a predetermined period of time,
the average stock trading price corresponding to a particular one of the plurality of option
value prices;

code to receive an employee stock option from an employee, the employee stock
5 option corresponding to the particular one of the plurality of option value prices;

code to provide a first value, a second value and an investment value to the employee
in exchange for receiving the employee stock option, the first and second values
corresponding to the particular one of the plurality of option value prices, the first value
provided to the employee at a first time, the second value and the investment value provided
10 to the employee at a second time;

code to amend the employee stock option to modify:

terms of the maturity;

terms of the number of shares per option;

terms of the dilution protection; or

15 terms of the dividend protection;

code to transfer the amended stock option to a third party; and

code to receive a value from the third party in exchange for transfer of the amended
stock option.